

STEELE DOG TIMBER SALE

February 19, 2008

Location of Sale:

- Stillwater Unit (NWLO) – Approximately 11 air miles west of Whitefish, Montana.
- Flathead County – Sections 30, 31, 32, T33N, R23W and Sections 23, 24, 25, 36 T33N, R24W, Section 24, T33N, R24W
- Trust Distribution – 4% Public Buildings, 32% MSU Second, and 64% Common School.
- This sale is within the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI).

Sale Volume & Estimated Value:

- The estimated volume is 17,569 tons (2,626 mbf), with an estimated minimum value of \$263,574.00 or \$15.00/ton.
- In addition to the estimated stumpage value, a fee of \$4.08/ton for Forest Improvement would be charged for all merchantable sawlog timber harvested.
- The conversion factor is 6.69 tons/Mbf.

Sale & Harvest Treatments:

- This sale consists of 11 harvest units totaling 208 acres
- The silvicultural prescriptions include commercial thinning on 36 acres, seed tree on 61 acres, and seed tree with reserves on 111 acres. The harvest prescriptions would remove trees infected with various bark beetles, mistletoe, and root rot. Healthy, large diameter overstory trees including western larch, Douglas-fir, western white pine, and western red cedar would be retained to promote the establishment of seral species in the understory.
- Approximately 64 acres will be planted with western larch, western white pine, and ponderosa pine.
- No old growth will be harvested.

Harvest Systems:

- 100 % Tractor.

Road Construction:

- Approximately 0.17 mile of new road construction is required to access harvest units.
- Maintenance on 5.3 miles of existing roads is required to meet current Best Management Practices.
- Current road restrictions will remain in place to maintain wildlife security, reduce the spread of noxious weeds, and minimize future maintenance costs.

Public Involvement:

- This project was analyzed as part of the Duck-to-Dog Environmental Assessment. Public involvement was solicited through a legal notice in the *Whitefish Pilot*. Letters were sent to adjacent landowners and special interest groups. The public, DNRC specialists, and specialists from other agencies helped identify the issues that were analyzed. Areas of concern were wildlife, forest fuels, aesthetics (visuals), and the spread of noxious weeds. Three comments were received during the Duck-to-Dog EA scoping process, one is a form letter from the Wildwest Institute, and two from local residents. The local residents were concerned about increased traffic and harvest in the

urban interface. One resident whose home adjoins a harvest unit strongly supported the sale while the other who lives in Olney did not support the sale due to potential increases in traffic.

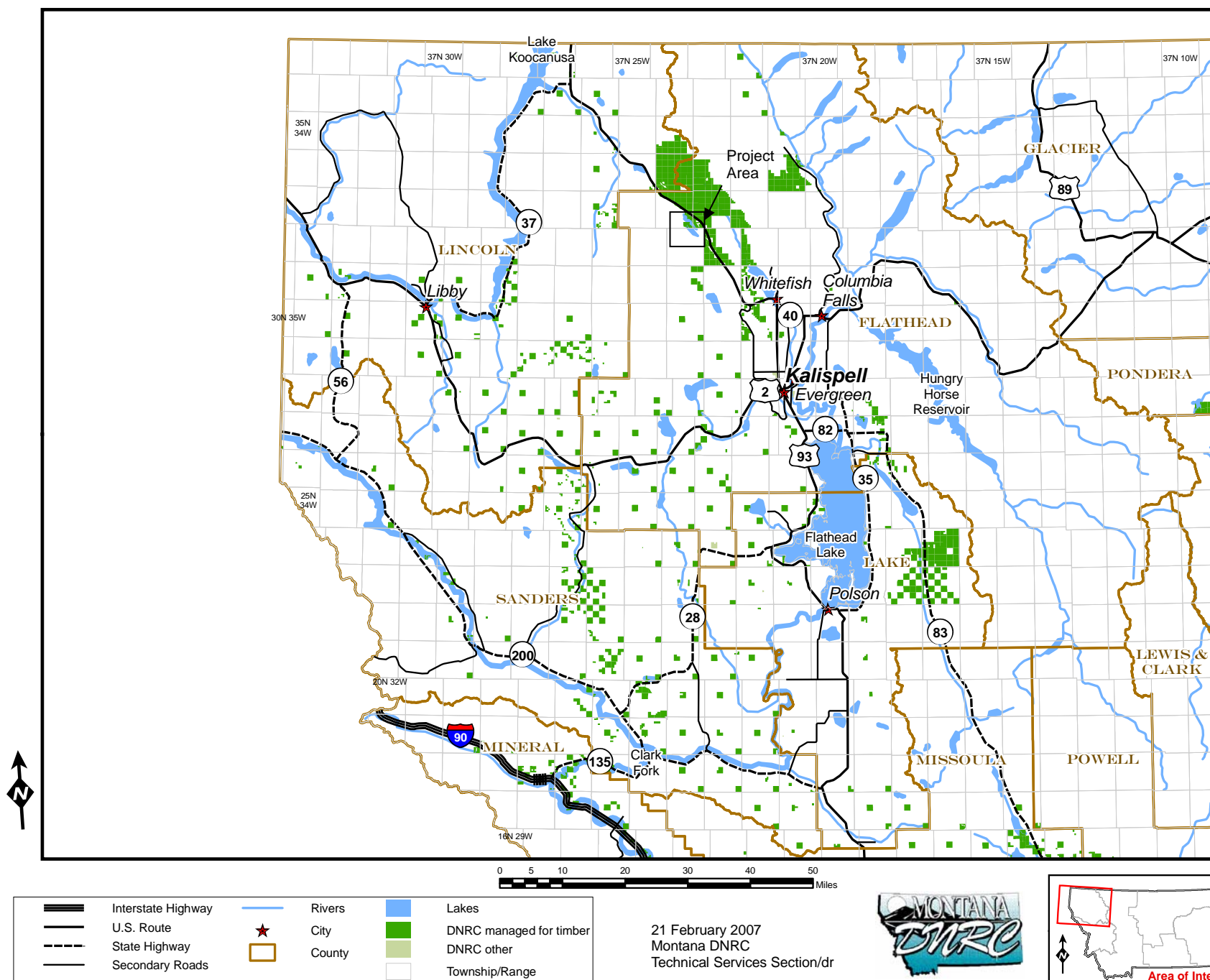
Public Comments, Issues and Mitigations:

- **Fuels Reduction** - This area has rural homesteads surrounding the Steele Dog project area and is within a wildland urban interface. Additionally, approximately 2 miles of Burlington Northern/Sante Fe Railroad is adjacent to State lands within this project. This sale would reduce dense fuels within the wildland urban and within the State land/railroad interface on more than 50 acres. Firefighting efforts would benefit from the upgraded transportation system and proposed harvest prescriptions.
- **Noxious Weeds** - By using an integrated weed-management plan, the spread of weeds would be limited by the following:
 - Off-road equipment used for felling, skidding, log processing, and loading activities would be washed and inspected before being brought on site.
 - All disturbed areas would be grass seeded.
 - The project area would be monitored and, if needed, scheduled for follow-up herbicide treatment.
- **Wildlife** - The project area is not in a big game winter range although it is along a big game migration corridor. The retention of shrubs and trees along the roads, broken topography, and pockets of untreated areas will maintain limited sight distances; the road restrictions will remain unchanged, thereby maintaining security for wildlife. Hunter access will not change with the action alternative.
- **Traffic** – Traffic is not expected to increase as a result of this sale. The area has a timber harvest economy with the requisite log trucks and other associated traffic. This sale is not expected to increase or otherwise impact the area's normal traffic flows.

The Director recommends the Land Board direct the Department to sell the Steele Dog Timber Sale Project.

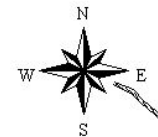
Steele Dog Vicinity Map

Attachment A





STEELEDOG TIMBER SALE
Sections 23/24 of T33N R24W
Attachment A, Map 1 of 3

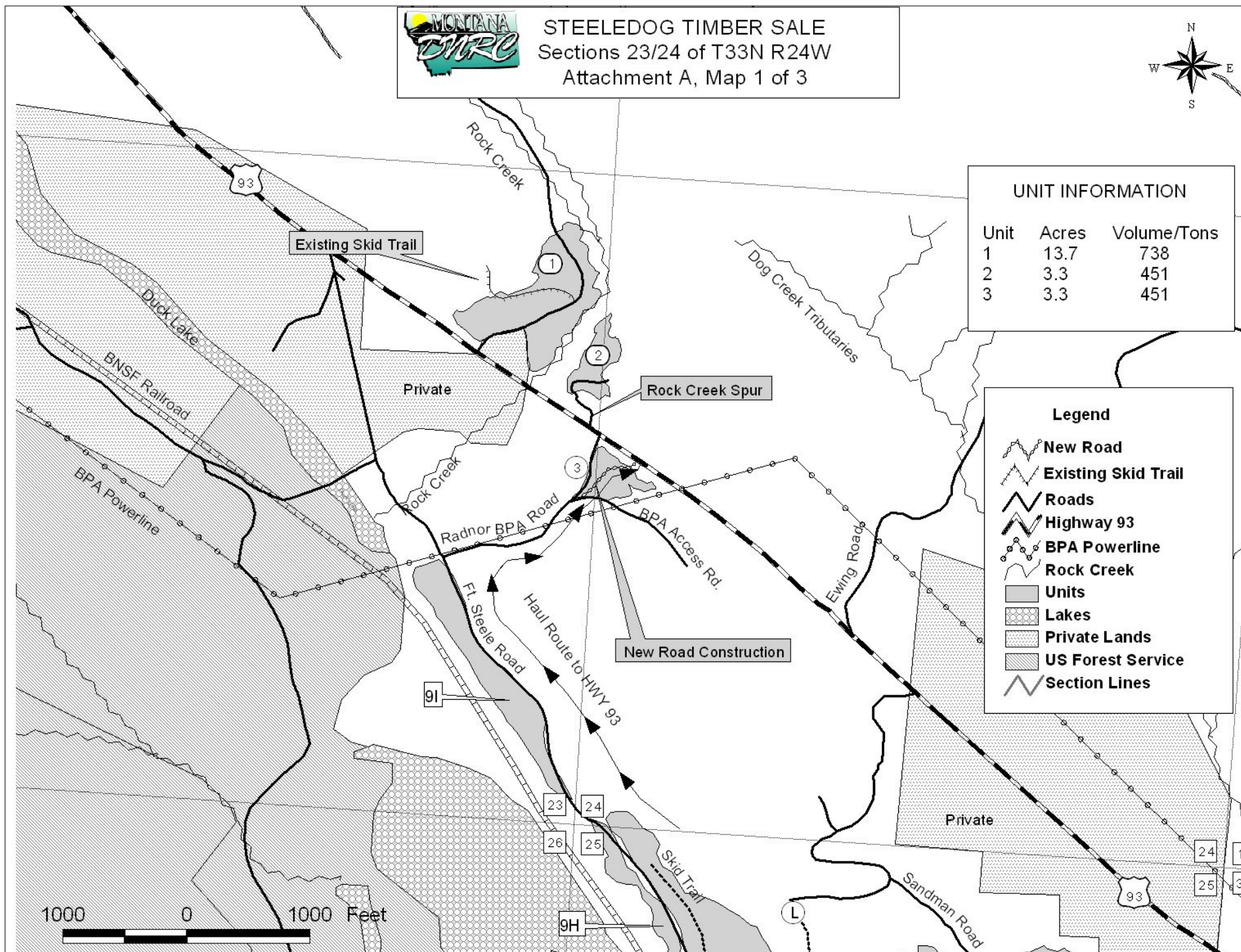


UNIT INFORMATION

Unit	Acres	Volume/Tons
1	13.7	738
2	3.3	451
3	3.3	451

Legend

- New Road
- Existing Skid Trail
- Roads
- Highway 93
- BPA Powerline
- Rock Creek
- Units
- Lakes
- Private Lands
- US Forest Service
- Section Lines





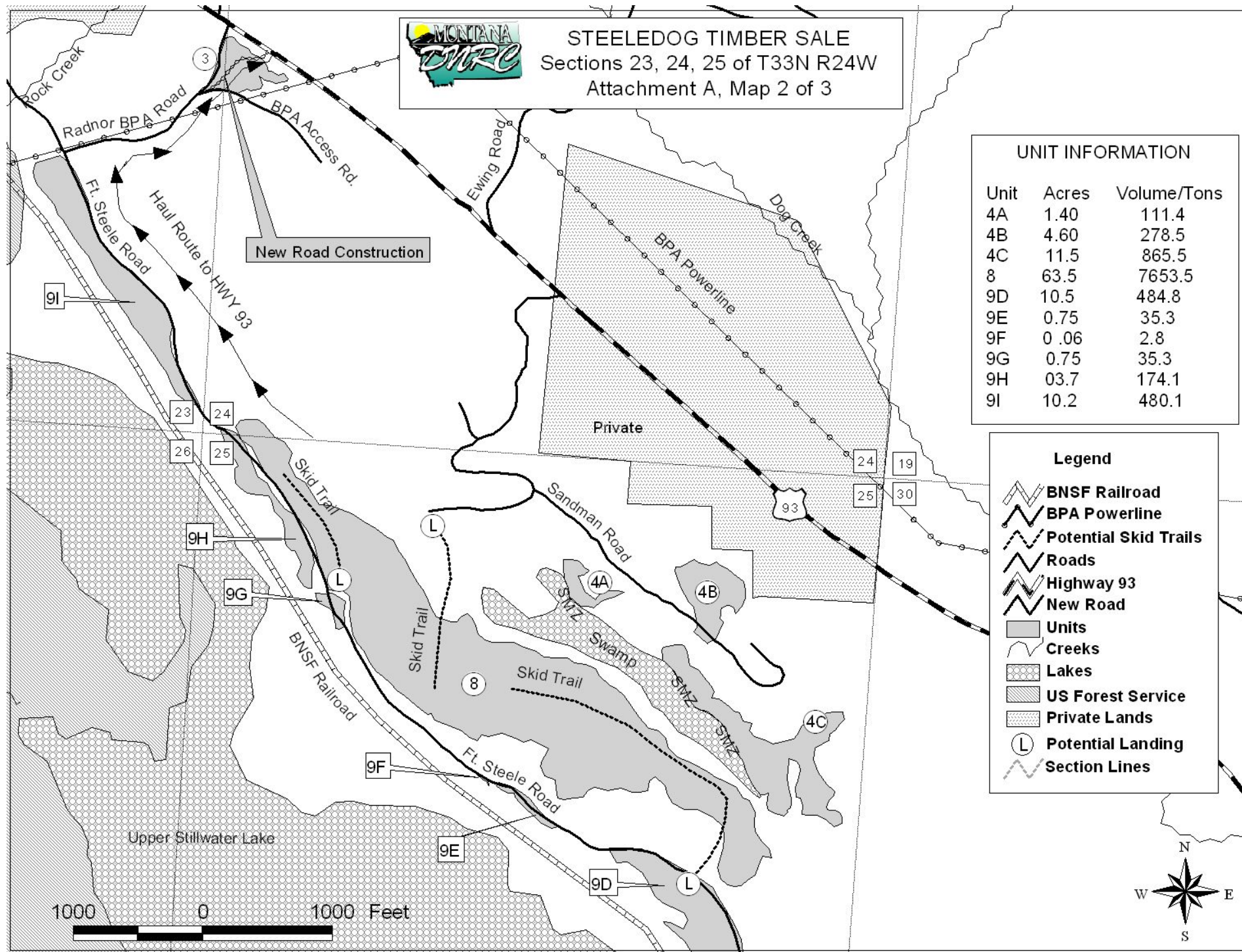
STEELEDOG TIMBER SALE
Sections 23, 24, 25 of T33N R24W
Attachment A, Map 2 of 3

UNIT INFORMATION

Unit	Acres	Volume/Tons
4A	1.40	111.4
4B	4.60	278.5
4C	11.5	865.5
8	63.5	7653.5
9D	10.5	484.8
9E	0.75	35.3
9F	0.06	2.8
9G	0.75	35.3
9H	03.7	174.1
9I	10.2	480.1

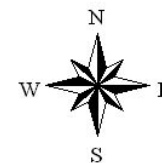
Legend

- BNSF Railroad
- BPA Powerline
- Potential Skid Trails
- Roads
- Highway 93
- New Road
- Units
- Creeks
- Lakes
- US Forest Service
- Private Lands
- Potential Landing
- Section Lines





STEELEDOG TIMBER SALE
Sections 25 and 36 of T33N R24W
Sections 30, 31, 32 of T33N R23W
Attachment A, Map 3 of 3



UNIT INFORMATION

Unit	Acres	Volume/Tons
5	53.2	4,634.2
6	9.4	278.5
7	12.2	865.5
9A	.30	13.9
9B	1.7	79
9C	4.2	195.1

Legend

- BNSF Railroad
- BPA Powerline
- Barricaded Roads
- Roads
- Highway 93
- Units
- Creeks
- Lakes
- Private Lands
- US Forest Service
- Landing
- Section Lines

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